



Pardes Summer Program 2019. Session 2. July 29-August 13

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	
8:45-11:15 am Talmud	<p><i>The Music and Method of Mishna</i> – Mishna/Talmud - David Debow</p> <p><i>"The Day" - Sanctity, and Sin; Food and Fasting (Tractate Yoma)</i> – Introductory - Joshua Weisberg</p> <p><i>Family: Independence, Relationship and Responsibility (Tractate Kiddushin)</i> – Intermediate - Nechama Goldman Barash</p> <p><i>Coming Undone: Vows, Agency, and Power. Tractate Nedarim</i> – Advanced - Wendy Amsallem</p>					
11:45 am -1:15 pm Jewish Thought <i>(Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs)</i>	<p><i>What are we praying for?</i> Zvi Hirschfield</p> <p><i>Constructive Conflict: How Traditional Texts Can Inform Modern Civil Discourse</i> Sefi Kraut</p> <p><i>Jewish Responses to Modernity – Six Thinkers who Changed Jewish Thought</i> Davina Wanderer-Kriel</p> <p><i>Encountering God Honestly</i> Joshua Weisberg</p>			Guest Speakers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prayer</i> • <i>Constructive Conflict</i> • <i>Responses to Modernity</i> • <i>Encountering God</i>
	<p>1:15 Mincha – afternoon prayers (Optional. Mehitza or Egalitarian)</p> <p>LUNCH</p>					
2:30-5pm Bible/Tanakh <i>(Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed)</i>	<p><i>Joseph and the Emergence of Identity (Introductory)</i> Tovah Leah Nachmani</p> <p><i>My Name is My Bond – Exodus & Identity(s) (Intermediate)</i> Marc Rosenberg</p> <p><i>Topics in the Book of Shmuel (Samuel) (Intermediate)</i> Sharona Halickman</p> <p><i>An Examination of Tanakh with a Modern Lens (Advanced)</i> Stu Halpern</p>				<p>Tiyul</p> <p>Tour or Hike</p>	



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8:45-11:15am

Morning Text Intensive – Mishna & Talmud

A guide to your level:

Talmud Class Levels:

Mishna/Talmud Intro – If you cannot read Hebrew and/or if you have no substantial experience with Rabbinic texts, this is the class for you. It will provide a broad and robust introduction to the world of the Oral Law and will study texts from Mishna, and introduce you to Talmudic thinking.

Talmud Intro This class assumes that you can read Hebrew script, that you know at least 50 words in Hebrew but have never really studied Talmud. This class will provide an opportunity to begin reading the Talmud in the original Aramaic.

Talmud Intermediate – This class assumes that you have taken Talmud classes but cannot independently read a Talmudic text fluently.

Talmud Advanced – This class assumes at least one year of experience with Talmud and the ability to read Rashi script. We will also study relevant medieval commentaries as needed.

The Music and Method of Mishna

*This class will study selections from all six orders of the Mishna -
Introductory*

David Debow

The Mishna embodies the introductory kernel from which the entire corpus of Oral Law sprouts. It is also an artful literary creation itself. We will study both its form and content. Hebrew is not required. We will study a selection of Mishnayot from each of the six Orders of the Mishna:

Agriculture, Holidays, Marriage and Divorce, Damages, The Sacrificial Laws and Ritual Purity. We will also learn about the colorful Sages who taught the Mishna as a window into this formative time in Jewish history. In addition, we will look at key selections from the Talmud to see how these terse Mishnayot become the basis for intricate Talmud debates.

"The Day"- Sanctity, and Sin; Food and Fasting – Introductory *Tractate Yoma*

Over our ten meetings we will immerse ourselves in the holiness, the sins, the food, the fasting and the prayers of Yom Kippur: "Yoma" which simply means "The Day."

Through the Talmud's discussion of abstinence (from food and sex) on Yom Kippur we will delve into its background assumptions about aesthetics and pleasure. Through its analysis of atonement, we will wrestle with questions about the nature of sin and return. And in the Talmud's presentation of the vidui (confession) we will search for insight into the nature of our own prayer (or silence) on the Holiest Day.

Family: Independence, Responsibility and Relationship (Tractate Kiddushin) - Intermediate

Nechama Goldman Barash

"A Woman is acquired" is how Tractate Kiddushin begins. This controversial statement opens the talmudic exploration of marriage, exploring the nature of the marital bond and personal status in a detailed discussion of diverse modes of acquisition. Stories and legal discussion intertwine to expose questions and place limitations put on the seemingly straightforward Mishna.

In the second week, we will focus on a unit on honoring parents that appears in the same chapter in Kiddushin. The commandment in the



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Torah is undefined. How far do children have to go to fulfill it? Here too stories and legal boundaries interact and unearth the complexity of this most basic and fraught of human relationships.

Students will learn how to break down a unit of text and how the segments of the Talmudic discussion interact with one another to give greater meaning than found in the individual units.

Coming Undone: Vows, Agency, and Power

Tractate Nedarim - Advanced

Wendy Amsallem

What happens if you vow that I must come to your home for lunch on Shabbat? Or if I vow that I will never again wear orange? The Torah speaks of humans' ability to create reality through speech. By taking vows, a person creates obligations and becomes bound by restrictions that have the force of Torah laws. This summer we will study the third chapter of Tractate Nedarim and consider which vows can and do take effect and the various ways in which those vows can be undone.

11:45am – 1:15pm

Mid-Morning Class – Jewish Thought

(Sun, Mon, Tue, Thurs)

What are we praying for?

Zvi Hirschfield

An exploration of the meaning and purpose of prayer from the Tanakh (Bible) till modern times. We will explore and experiment with different practices and approaches that can help us make prayer more meaningful

Constructive Conflict: how traditional texts can inform modern civil discourse

Sefi Kraut

We often think of disagreements as an unfortunate aspect of life. Yet, in the tradition of the Mishnah and Talmud, *mahkloket* (debate) is a vital tool to generate discussion and critical thinking. It serves to inject different perspectives into the conversation in order to fully thrash out the relevant issues.

In this course, we will explore how the debates and tensions in the Bible, Talmud, and commentaries are directly relevant to some of the most explosive contemporary political, religious, and ideological conflicts. In an age when civil discourse is rapidly disintegrating, we will discover that Jewish wisdom and text study can strengthen the culture of *constructive* disagreement today within and between communities.

Six Thinkers who Changed Judaism - An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought



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Davina Wanderer-Kriel

Whereas the shift into Modernity meant a rupture with the past, it offered new exciting opportunities for the future, that transformed the course of Western culture. This course will consider how these changes impacted on the lives and thought of several important Jewish thinkers, who posed new questions to the Jewish Tradition and formulated alternative and often radical responses to these questions, introducing new ideas to our Jewish world.

Thinkers will include Spinoza, Mendelsohn, the Baal Shem Tov and the advent of Hassidut, Rav Abraham Isaac Hakohen Kook, Buber and others.

Encountering God Honestly

Joshua Weisberg

"Acting is the art of living honestly in imagined circumstances." Sanford Meisner.

For a spiritually inclined but skeptical contemporary Jew, it can be a tremendous challenge to encounter God honestly, in Sanford Meisner's sense, through an authentic and traditional Jewish script. In this class we will look at traditional Rabbinic texts as well as Hassidic teachings on a range of topics related to the encounter with God: authenticity, encounter, wonder, needfulness, distance, providence, personal prayer and traditional liturgy. Each class will include an experiential component. You don't need to believe in anything in particular to take and appreciate this class, but you need to be curious and searching.

2:30-5pm (Sun, Mon, Tue, Wednesday)

Afternoon Class

Tanakh - Bible

Joseph and the Emergence of Identity

Tovah Leah Nachmani

Wearing the elaborately embroidered coat he received as a sign of status and favor from his father, Joseph aroused envy and hatred in the hearts of his brothers. Criticizing his older brothers, and sharing his vivid dreams of leadership with them, Joseph eventually brought down the rage of his brothers upon himself. Stripped and thrown into a pit of darkness and danger, and sold as a slave in Egypt, Joseph embarks on a journey of gradually expanding consciousness.

After hitting rock bottom, Joseph begins the creative process of listening to his inner voice and revealing the five facets of his personality.

Through the lens of traditional text and modern commentaries we will explore the developing character of Joseph as well as the hidden process within every person to recognize and reveal the five dimensions of their identity.

My Name is My Bond – Exodus & Identity(s)

Marc Rosenberg

The Book of Exodus – in Hebrew, Sefer Shmot means the “Book of Names”. While the Exodus from Egypt is one of the most famous stories ever told, this class will be studying the principled scenes up close and personal, focusing in on multiple levels of meaning around the thematic idea of names and identity. Moshe desperately grapples with his agency throughout the book – as a baby floating on the Nile to the 80-year-old



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leader at the foot of Mt. Sinai); we will explore the text to see how identities are formed, tested and subverted as relationships progress. There will be hevruta time (with partners) and discussions as we work with translations, biblical commentators, and personal reflections to better understand the text and its relevance as moderns.

Topics in the Book of Shmuel (Samuel)

Sharona Margolin Halickman

We will explore themes in the Book of Shmuel which describes the inception of the monarchy and the rivalry between King Saul and the young David.

Themes that will be included: infertility, styles of leadership: the figures of Samuel, Saul and David, kingship and downfall.

Study will engage with the Biblical text while drawing on their parallels in other books of the Tanakh using peshat, commentaries and Midrash.

An Examination of Tanakh with a Modern Lens

Stu Halpern

This course will examine three lenses of Tanakh study: 1. Midrash, 2.

Literary analysis 3. Knowledge of the ancient world

Through these, we will look at the following questions:

- How does knowledge of the ancient world inform our understanding of the Bible?
- Does the ancient rabbis' midrashic method offer readings relevant to the modern era?
- And how was a literary approach to the Bible offered new ways to understand its teachings?

Each class will examine a different central text, and use traditional commentary alongside the close-reading of contemporary scholars. Texts will be studied from Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Lamentations, Ruth, Esther, Daniel, and Jonah.



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Faculty Biographies

Rabbi Wendy Amsellem is a faculty member at Drisha Institute and at Yeshivat Maharat. She is a graduate of the Drisha Scholars Circle and she has a BA in History and Literature from Harvard University. Wendy studied at Pardes in 2003-2004 and is delighted to be joining the faculty this Summer!

Rabbi David Debow is the founding director of Midreshet Emunah v'Omanut, a unique Seminary in Jerusalem specializing in Torah education and the Arts. He and his family spent time in Cleveland at the Mizrahi School, while he served in various capacities including High School Principal. He holds an MA in Educational Administration from Ursuline College and a BA in Physics from Yeshiva University. He learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion and served in the IDF. He currently resides in Alon Shevut with his wife, a noted author Dr. Yocheved Debow and their lovely family.

Sharona Margolin Halickman holds a BA in Judaic Studies from Yeshiva University, and an MS in Jewish Education. Sharona served as a Torat Miriam fellow, Atid fellow and Matan Eshkolot fellow. Originally from Riverdale, NY, Sharona was the first Madricha Ruchanit (Religious Mentor) at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (1997-2004). She has been the founding director of Torat Reva Yerushalayim since making aliya in 2004.

Sharona is the author of Parsha Points: More Torah from the Land of Israel and she writes a weekly blog on the parsha for the Times of Israel. Sharona has served as a guest speaker and visiting scholar in communities throughout North America and Israel.

Sharona lives in Jerusalem with her husband Josh and their three children.

Rabbi Dr. Stuart Halpern is Senior Advisor to the Provost (the chief academic officer) of Yeshiva University, and is responsible for developing educational and communal initiatives that bridge Torah and general studies. Dr. Halpern received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in Psychology in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University, a master's degree in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, an MBA in Nonprofit Management from Touro University, a doctorate in education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Education and Administration, and rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Chaim Brovender. He has edited or co-edited 16 books on the Bible, Jewish prayer, and Jewish thought, most recently *Gleanings: Reflections on Ruth* and *Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land: The Hebrew Bible in the United States* (Koren Books and YU Press), and has lectured in Hillels, shuls, and adult educational settings across the U.S.

Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield (director of the program) teaches Talmud, Halakha and Jewish Thought at Pardes. In addition, Zvi is a faculty member of the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators and has been training and mentoring Jewish Educators for over ten years in Tefilah (prayer) in educational settings, critical issues in modern Jewish thought, and Israel education. Zvi holds a B.A. in History from Columbia University and did graduate work at Harvard University in Medieval and Modern Jewish Thought. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel and has rabbinic ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

Sefi Kraut grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then moved to New York during her high school years. She earned a BA in History at Stern College,



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and taught at Yavneh Academy in NJ for eight years. She moved to Jerusalem in August 2013 and went on to teach Tanakh at Midreshet Lindenbaum and Midreshet Moriah, as well as becoming the assistant director of the Tikvah Overseas Seminars program. Sefi is currently working as a certified personal trainer and leads running groups for adults and kids through the Weksler Institute fitness clinic. She is a mentor on the Pardes Educators Program and teaches on the Pardes Community Education program.

Tovah Leah Nachmani teaches Bible, Liturgy and Prayer and Relationships at Pardes. She holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Language and Literature and Religious Studies from Indiana University and a Teaching Certificate in Tanach and Jewish Thought from the Michlelet Herzog Seminary in Gush Etzion and recently has qualified as a certified Reflexologist.

She has written and guided experiential learning programs for mothers and their daughters of Bat Mitzva age at the Women's Beit Midrash in Efrat, where she previously taught Prayer and Jewish Thought. Tovah Leah was a Jewish educator and program director for many years, together with her husband Gabi, for Livnot U'Lehibanot ("To Build and Be Built") in Tzfat and Jerusalem. They co-authored the widely-used song book "Zemiroth from Livnot." She also served as Assistant Educational Director for Ayeka – an international organization training Jewish lay and professional leaders to facilitate spiritual education seminars for Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations. She believes in learning which connects the mind to the heart.

Marc Rosenberg first taught at the Pardes summer program in 2006. He teaches Tanach, Jewish History, and Israel Education. He holds an M.Ed from George Washington University and is (re)searching a thesis topic in

his quest for his Ph.D. in English Literature at Bar-Ilan University. Formally a 7th grade English teacher, he teaches at several educational institutions in Jerusalem, presents at International conferences, and previously collaborated for the Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora. Since 2008 he is working at Nefesh B'Nefesh – a non-profit organization that is revitalizing Aliyah from the UK and North America.

Davina Wanderer-Kriel holds a BA in History from University College, London, and an MA in Jewish Philosophy from Bar Ilan University. She has studied in a number of different *Batei Midrash* over the years including Midreshet Lindenbaum, Ein HaNatziv, Avodah Shebaguf and Yeshivat Siach. She currently educates at the prestigious Pelech High School for girls and in several post High-school programs. She is married, has four kids and lives in Jerusalem.

Davina firmly believes that listening to one's students is always more important than lecturing them and is aware that teaching Jewish Philosophy is a permanent cause of existential angst. Constantly losing sleep over life's paradoxes and yet seeking happiness in the small things - Davina likes the feel of sun on her face; ReBar yoghurt shakes; being carried away by a Carlebach niggun, truly engaging with people and finding the courage to face up to change

Rabbi Joshua Weisberg teaches Talmud at Nishmat, a women's seminary in Jerusalem. He was born in Canada, attended Wesleyan University in Middletown Connecticut and has an MA in Jewish history. Josh is a part time specialty chef at Tmol Shilshom in Jerusalem and lives in Jerusalem with his wife and eight children. Recently, he has devoted his free time to writing a book: part memoir and part commentary to tractate Avoda Zara.